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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **U.S. Navy, USAID, and the Boeing Corporation Donate Modern Scientific Instrumentation and Electronic Test Equipment to the National Institute for Standards and Metrology of the Kyrgyz Republic**

*The United States Navy and the Boeing Corporation have teamed up with the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID), Metrology, Accreditation, Standards and Certification (MAS-Q) Program in Central Asia to provide \$252,212 of modern scientific instrumentation and electronic test equipment to the National Institute for Standards and Metrology (NISM.) This donation is part of the U.S. technical assistance program to the Gosstandards of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.*

The Country Representative for USAID, Clifford Brown, presented the equipment to Mr. Patidin Atahanov, Director of the National Institute for Standards and Metrology (NISM or Kyrgyzstandard) on February 17, 2006. The ceremony took place at the National Institute for Standards and Metrology in Bishkek. This is the second donation of such equipment to NISM; the first took place in 2004 and was valued at \$172,000. This donation is worth \$252,212, bringing the total value of the equipment donated to the NISM to more than \$425,000 U.S. dollars.

The USAID – Metrology, Accreditation, Standards and Certification (MAS-Q) Program in Central Asia is implemented by the Pragma Corporation. It provides technical and legal assistance to Kyrgyz government and private sector organizations on trade facilitation issues and helps bring Kyrgyz trade legislation into compliance with WTO requirements. The program also includes helping NISM organize itself into a technical service provider and helps NISM to adopt and implement internationally recognized standards and accreditation norms. Today's donation will enhance the capabilities of NISM to provide these support services to local industry, which currently must rely largely on service laboratories abroad to achieve international recognition of test results.

The working group, "Cooperation on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization in Central Asia," consisting of the Gosstandards of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will be the forum for developing and implementing the major activities for use of the equipment. A series of inter-laboratory comparisons of measurement standards will be conducted by the four countries. This activity is one of the requirements to facilitate international mutual recognition of tests. An additional goal is to promote common test procedures and systems that will lead to the acceptance of certification and accreditation first within the region and then by international regional and national organizations.

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#### KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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